

R.I.P. GAN CHIN SENG 58-59 – 28-9-2017

It's very strange that I did not get to hear this sad news from any of the Kirkbyites. Normally my source would be a Kirkbyite. But in this instance nobody called me.

My schoolmate, Sohan Singh, from St Marks School, Butterworth, called me at 1.53 pm. Sohan was one year my Senior in School.

“Rama, I have some bad news for you. Your friend from Kuantan...”

“Gan Chin Seng!” I interjected.

“Yes, he passed away this morning.”

Sohan mentioned that he would be going to Kuantan tomorrow.

Sohan was posted to Batu Pahat after his training and that was how he became friendly with Gan. Both of them have remained firm friends ever since.

I called Gan's wife, Gwen, and spoke to her. “There is nothing left for me now. There was only one Gan!” she said.

Gan passed away at 6.30 in the morning today. He had been ailing for some time now. He had grown very weak. When I called him in August, I was unable to speak to him. However, I had quite a long chat with his wife.

Gan and Gwen were married on 22-10-1966. Gan met his wife when he was posted to Kuantan. Prior to this, his first posting was to Sungai Lembing in Pahang.

Gwen told me that some of Gan's close Kirkby friends – among them Ho Chee Eng – used to meet up regularly during the Chinese New Year and go for big dinners. Sometimes they meet up in Batu Pahat, Kuantan or go to Kemaman in Trengganu.

I rang up his class mate, K M Seth, to inform him but he was already in the know. Ho Chee Eng had informed him and they will be going to Kuantan tomorrow.

I also called and informed Fung Swee Weng and Angeline from Gan's batch who were close to Gan. They had not heard of Gan's passing.

Gan, a bespectacled tall person, serious-looking, was from the seventh batch of Kirkbyites. He was my Senior in college. Gan organized a holiday tour of Ireland during the Whitsun holidays. A number of Juniors, among whom were Manasseh, Lye Meng, Ng Sau Nam, myself and a few others were in Gan's group. It was a wonderful holiday. We put up in Dublin University where his friend was studying.

Gan's funeral will take place on Saturday. For details look out for the Obituary in the Star tomorrow.

For those wishing to convey your condolences may find the following information helpful:

Wife: Gweneth Ena Margaret de Cruz – You can refer to her as Gwen.

Telephone: 09-5683 859; 016-5610 449

Address: A493 Lorong Selamat 30, Telok Sisek, 25050 Kuantan, Pahang

Gwen herself is not well. She has cancer. And they have no children.

Your call and support would mean a great deal to her. Let's reach out and comfort her.

Yours in sorrow,

RAMA

